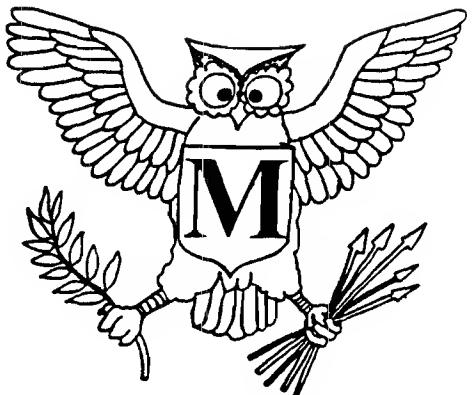


DIPLOMAG

See Page 7 for Referendum on the future of our SIG.

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in Postal Diplomacy and related events. The SIG arranges postal games for its members, including first games for novices. For SIG game openings, contact the Chairman. As each 7-player game list is filled, the game will be "farmed out" to a Mensa GM. Membership dues are \$5.00 per year, or two years for \$9.00. Diplomacy is a board game copyrighted in the U.S.A. by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. Any opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of American Mensa, Ltd.



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THE BAD NEWS BARES

In case you haven't heard, the AMC is going to raise the annual Mensa dues to \$45.00, effective April 1, 1993. However, they are going to offer, on a one-time only basis, three-year memberships for \$110. It would seem that the most logical thing to do is to pay the \$110 for a 3-year membership when your dues notice comes in Dec. or Jan. This will beat any future increases which may be decreed in 1994 or '95.

In any case, we hope this won't cause you to drop your Mensa membership. It's still a bargain compared to the dues charged by many other organizations. There will be no increase in SIG dues in 1993. Remember, if you're a student or otherwise suffering from a financial hardship, you can always request a partial deferment of dues by writing to American Mensa, Ltd. at the Brooklyn office. If you should let your National membership lapse, you can remain a SIG member, as we're allowed to have a percentage of non-duespaying M's as non-voting members. However, please let me know if you should become a lapsed M, as I have to make a report to our SIGs Office twice a year on what percentage of our members are currently duespaying M's.

* * * * *

FINAL RUNESTONE POLL COMMENTS

The Roar of the Crowd, the big wrap-up on the Poll, arrived the day after most of the September DIPLOMAGs were put in the mail. There were some interesting statistics. For example, I'd like to thank those 14 readers who gave DIPLOMAG ratings of 6, 7, 8 or 9. That gave us a rating of 5.53, and a rise of 5 percentile points from 1991. Nine SIG members voted. The rest of our votes must have come from subbers and traders.

The greatest number of votes were cast for ZINE REGISTER (54) and DIPLOMACY WORLD (51). These are probably the zines with the highest circulations. D.W. finished 17th, a drop of 9 places, with a score of 7.37. This was much lower than it ought to have been. In my personal opinion, D.W. should be ranked third in North American Dipzines.

(more)

ZINE REGISTER wound up in 20th place, 7.02, a gain of 39 slots over 1991. Among those Mensa zines which did not get the required 10 votes to make the main list, Ralph Baty's BATVILLE GAZETTE was rated the highest, with a score of 7.55. This would have given B.G. 11th place, but he gleaned only 9 votes. Oh, Stephen Glasgow's WAR FAIR had a score of 7.62, but got only four votes.

An interesting feature every year is the "Controversy Rating." This shows how much of a spread there is between the votes, from 0 to 10, for zines, subzines and GM's. The more the voters agree, the lower the Controversy rating. This year, the ratings were lower than in 1991. Partly for this reason, and partly because only 59 zines made the main list in '92 (compared to 73 in '91), I had to revise my arbitrary division of the Controversy Lists into Low, Medium and High divisions.

In 1991, I used "40"^{points} as the cutoff point for Low Controversy zines, and had 38 publications in that classification. I then placed 26 zines with ratings between 41 and 50 into Medium; and nine, rated 51+, in the High category. RETALIATION, with 62, was the most controversial. (It had already folded prior to the '91 Runestone Poll voting).

including DIPLOMAG, with 28, This year, I lowered the cutoff point for the Low category to 35, placing 33 zines in that category. Then, the 16 zines with ratings between 36 and 48 were called Medium. These ranged from COMRADES IN ARMS with 37 to ACROPOLIS with 48. Finally, I rated the ten zines rated 49+ as High, starting with COSTAGUANA and the folded DIPLOMACY DOWNS at 49. However, the most "controversial" zine this year, UPSTART, had a score of only 57. Schenck's other publication, ZINE REGISTER, was also in this class with a 51. BOAST, which finished 55th on the Poll, had a Controversy score of 53, as it received ratings all the way from "0" to "10". (My rating was "3". Sorry, Herb.)

My score was 15. of 19 GM's I placed the 30 GM's rated from 9 to 34 into the Low category. My Medium group runs from 35, Stephen Dorneman, to 46, Lee Kendter, Jr. This puts just five GM's into the Highly Controversial category, as compared with 10 in that class last year. The two GM's with the highest scores, John Boardman and Bill LaFosse, had only 56, whereas in '91 nine GM's had scores higher than 56.

Mensa

The highest ranked/GM on the main list was Andy York, who finished 18th with a rating of 7.39. Stephen Glasgow had a rating of 9.00, and Ralph Baty's was 8.70, but neither of them received the necessary five votes to make the list. Hope we can get the vote out next year, guys.

* * * * *

HOBBY NEWS

DIPCON XXVI will be held over the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3-6, 1993, as part of the Pacificon gaming convention in San Mateo, California. San Mateo is adjacent to the San Francisco International Airport, which should make it convenient for anyone flying out to the Con. The DipCon Society meeting held in Kansas City this summer decided it was time for us to rejoin a big con for a change, to see if that wouldn't improve the Diplomacy Tournament attendance. (I'm sure it will, but I remain doubtful that we'll have any permanent gain in Postal participation afterwards. Anyone can play a game FTF, but it takes a particular type of warped mind to play a game by mail where the results won't be known for two years!)

Pete Gaughan will be DipCon chairman. Don Del Grande will run the DipTournament. Pete offers a free bimonthly newsltr. about DipCon XXVI, to anyone who'll send him one SASE. PERELANDRA readers will receive copies with that zine, and a few other zines will follow suit. To get your free copies of DIPCONVERSATION, please write to: Peter Gaughan, 1521 S. Novato Blvd., #46, Novato, CA. 94947.

HOBBY NEWS (Continued)

DIPLOMAG, Page 3

Hopefully, DipCon will have its own private section at PacifiCon, where we won't be overrun by the roleplaying games people. Our objective is to have "A con within a con" atmosphere, as someone recently called it. One of the events at DipCon '93 will be to select the site for the 1994 DipCon, which is supposed to be in the Southeastern Region running from Texas to North Carolina. It seems fairly certain as of now that the 1994 DipCon will again be at DixieCon in Chapel Hill, N.C. David Hood has announced that DixieCon will definitely bid for the event. This is where World DipCon II was held in 1990. That event brought many Overseas visitors to Chapel Hill.

International Subscription Exchange. Pete Gaughan (address above) is also the U.S. representative for the ISE. If you want to sub to a British or Australian zine, send American or Canadian funds to Pete, and he'll order the zine for you through his Overseas counterpart. Just send an even sum, like \$5 or \$10, and let the publishers work out the details on sub length.

I had recently discovered that AAA offers inexpensive "money packs" of Pounds and other currencies, which are far better than getting an International M.O. from a bank if you have a substantial sum to transmit Overseas. (I send Richard Sharp a small royalty on every copy of his book, The Game of Diplomacy, which I sell, and this can accumulate to a substantial amount). However, I've been advised that many more Brits are taking advantage of the ISE to order American zines than are Americans ordering U.K. zines, so at present the "balance of trade" is out of whack. So, please use the ISE to order U.K. zines. Everyone deeply into the Postal hobby ought to sub or Trade with at least one European zine.

ZINE REGISTER. Garret Schenck will produce one more issue of Z.R., in December, before turning this over to Pete Gaughan (what, Gaughan again?). To order your copy of the December issue, send \$2.50 to: Garret Schenck, 40 Third Pl., Bsmt Apt., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11231.

Top Finishers at AvalonCon, held Aug. 1-2, 1992, in Camp Hill (Harrisburg), PA.: 1. Tom Kobrin, 2. Steve Chilcote, 3. Rex Martin (A-H official), 4. Lee Kendter, Sr. Also, David Hood was 7th & Fred Hyatt was 8th. 70 people participated in the Dip Tournament (10 boards). There were also many other A-H games played. Jim Yerkey GM'd.

Only 21 people played Dip at the 1992 Atlanticon, held in College Park Md., July 3-5. Top finishers were: 1. Frank (Baltimore) Jones, 2. Jim Yerkey, 3. Kevin McHugh, and 4. Kevin Kozlowski. Robert Sacks ran the Dip Tournament.

* * * * *

★ MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A copy of the latest SIG Membership List is enclosed. Shows 53 names, including two people whose expiration dates have arrived, but I hope they'll renew.

We gained three new members in September-October, and one old member rejoined:

L. Clay Jordan, 2616 Clinton Terr., Santa Barbara, CA. 93105
Carl Nail, 1361 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo, CA. 93405
Keith Sessler, 11130 Burlington Dr., #321, Southgate, Mich. 48195 (Rejoined)
David Rivenbaugh, 1623 E. 30th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44114 (joined on 11/7)
I inadvertently left Carl Nail's name off the printed list. Please add him to it.

A lot of SIG memberships will be expiring on Dec. 31, 1992. If your name appears here, please send me your renewal check (\$5. for one year, \$9. for two years) ASAP:

→ James Allen, Andrew Cohen, Peter Kohnke, Mike McCabe, Michael Morris, Tim O'Hare, James Tarsi, Nico Veenkamp.

MORE NEWS

All Zine publishers are requested to send a copy of their Mailing List to Douglas Kent, 54 W. Cherry St., #211, Rahway, N.J. 07065, for the 1993 PDO Census. Every pubber who sends Doug a copy of his list will receive a free copy of the '93 Census when it comes out in January. Everyone else may have a copy for just \$1.00. The January '92 Census carried 777 names, up from 731 the year before. Let's hope the numbers keep on rising.

Upcoming Wargaming Cons

December 13, 1992 (Sunday): BeethovenCon. Diplomacy at Larry Peery's house. Contact Larry at: P.O. Box 620399, San Diego, CA. 92162. Here's a chance to get a tour of the Diplomacy Archives.

July 4th weekend, 1993: ORIGINS at DalCon, Fort Worth, Texas. Dip Turney director will be our own Andy York. P.O. Box 2307, Universal City, Texas 78148. Ph: (210) 658-6066.

Feb. 5-7, 1993: NOVACON, at Pete Gaughan's place. Contact Pete at: 1521 S. Novato Blvd., #16, Novato, CA. 94947.

* * * * *

BASEBALL BUFFS ROUNDUP

Some of you saw my "Fred's Fearless Forecasts for 1992." I was correct in the American League in predicting the wins of both Toronto and Oakland. In the NORTHERN FLAME contest, I'd picked Pittsburgh in the NL East, but by the time I printed my own version, I outsmarted myself and picked St. Louis because of those notorious Spring trades, w/ Pitt demoted to 2nd place. In the NL West, I'd picked the L.A. Dodgers first (like a lot of other people), and they finished last. I did have Atlanta and Cincinnati in the correct order, only as 2nd & 3rd place finishers.

In the AL East, I'd selected Boston for 2nd and Milwaukee third, with my Orioles sensibly down in 5th. As you know, Milwaukee came in second, and by some miracle Baltimore came in third. I'd put the ChiSox second in the AL-West, and Minnesota third. The actual finish was just the reverse. With the Oakland team rapidly disintegrating, both have very good chances to win in 1993.

I was very pleased to see the Toronto Blue Jays win the World's Series. It was about time that some of the Archie Bunkers learned that there was more to the world than just the U.S.A. Besides, Toronto is one of my favorite cities.

* * * * *

Election Note. I was pleased with the outcome of the recent election, especially in Maryland, Illinois and California. In Maryland, the abortion rights law was reaffirmed by the good citizens by a vote of nearly 2 to 1. The presence of six ladies in the Senate should prevent another travesty like the Hill-Thomas Hearings from ever happening again. And almost as important as the Presidency, the Supreme Court has been saved in the nick of time from becoming a mouthpiece of the Radical Right. We can thank the ladies for getting rid of George Bush. They were really mad, so nearly half of them voted for Clinton, while 41% of white males votes for Bush.

I was amazed that Perot got 1% of the vote. I had not expected him to get more than 1%. In some ultra-conservative areas like Idaho and Utah his percentages either tied or exceeded Clinton's. Shows that what Lincoln said about "fooling the people" was right. The closest parallel to the 1992 election was 1912, the last time a third party candidate (T.R.) gleaned so many votes. And George Herbert Hoover joins his namesake Republican as a President who went down to defeat for being unaware of the miseries of the American people in the grips of an economic disaster. George should have spent less time on the golf course and on his cigarette boat.

MENSA GAME BATTLE REPORTS

MENSA #30, 1989 Y. GM: Craig A. Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

The Fall 1911 season was replayed, using Ralph Baty's French orders, which had been lost. Spring 1912 orders have now also been played, as this oldest of SIG games enters its final stage. France and Turkey (Kate Robison) remain tied with 11 Centers each. Germany (Tony Dousette) and Russia (Phil Reynolds) started 1912 with 6 units each, but each has had a unit annihilated in the Spring. A proposal has been made for a concession to France, as France takes Munich and Turkey takes North Africa.

MENSA #33, 1990 HT. GM: Eric Young, THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN

In Fall 1911, Austria (Peter Fuchs) regained Trieste and Spain, to go up to 8 Centers. However, she was only able to build A Bud, as that was the only open Home SC. Mike Morris' Germany captured Warsaw to go up to 9, and stay in the lead, but NMR'd his Winter build. Russia (Peter Kohnke) lost Marseille to France (Mike McCabe) and had F Spain annihilated, but would have had a build coming to replace that F, but has no open Home Centers. So, he has 8 SC's and just 7 units. Turkey (Andy York) dropped to 6 SC's with the loss of Warsaw. The 3-way Draw proposal G/R/T failed.

MENSA #35, 1991 A. GM: Andy York, RAMBLING WAY

With the Fall 1909 moves, France (Marc Hight) and Russia (Peter Kohnke) won a Two-way Draw. France finished with 14. Russia picked up Bul and Con from Turkey to go up 2 to 15. Austria (Jim Lewis) had picked up Tri and Greece, while losing Venice to France, to finish with 4 (+1). Turkey (Jim Grose) survived with 1 unit in Smyrna (-3). Hight, Kohnke and Grose were all starting players. That seems to be a key to doing well.

MENSA #36, 1991 IG. GM: Tony Dousette, THE CONTINUAL CRISIS

The proposed concession to France & Austria failed in Fall 1905. Austria (Andy York) captured Munich, Sev and Warsaw to climb 3 Centers to 11. France (David Hood) suffered the loss of Kiel and Munich, and had F Tunis annihilated, to drop 2 Centers to 8. Germany regained Kiel to stand at 5, but with no room to build (Ralph Baty). Italy (Jeff Eide) held his own at 6. Turkey (Ram Avrahami) was wiped out. England (Jim Lewis) still has two units, in Sweden & Denmark. There is a question as to who owns Russia. Craig Reges was asked to submit standby orders, but they weren't received. Russia lost Warsaw and is down to 2 units.

MENSA #37, 1991 AP. GM: Ralph Baty, BATYVILLE GAZETTE

Fall and Winter 1903 were played separately. Austria (Jim Lewis) and Turkey (Jim Grose) both have 7 SC's and units at Winter's end. France (Ken Henke) had gained Belgium to go up to 6 Centers, but he tried to build a F in Spain, which is a non-no, so he remains with just 5 units on the board. England and Germany stand pat with 5. Russia (Andy York) lost Warsaw to Austria & Sweden to England (Eric Young), to drop to a single A in St. Pete. Italy (William Scharf) stands pat with 3 Home Centers.

MENSA #38, Awaiting BN. GM: Craig A. Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

In Fall 1902, Austria (Jim Lewis) gained Bulgaria to rise to 6. Russia (Stephen Gaddy) took Berlin but lost Bulgaria, to stand at 6. Germany (Mike Morris) took the last neutral, Holland, but lost Berlin, to stay at 5. No changes elsewhere. France (Andy Cohen) has 5, and the others 4 each. Winter 1902 was played separately, at the players' requests.

(Cont. on Pg. 8)

The Geography of Diplomacy

Spring Offensive #5, Oct 1992

My letter was sent to Steve Agar, a former director of the U.K. Variant Bank, and published in his zine in October. I thought it was worth republishing on this side of the Ocean.

Copies of Spring Offensive may be obtained from:

Stephen Agar
79 Florence Rd.
Brighton, E. Sussex BN1 6DL
ENGLAND

There is an extensive letter column, and usually a variant in each issue.

Fred Davis:

"I wanted to comment on Geoffrey Farrar's letter in Spring Offensive #3, discussing the geography of the standard Diplomacy board. It seems that every few years someone 'discovers' that the map does not agree with the 1901 starting date for the game, and then some Old Timer like myself tries to explain."

"The map used by Allan Calhamer is very similar to the European map of 1913, after the First and Second Balkan Wars. However, Calhamer has explained many times, including at his visit to World DipCon I in Birmingham in 1988, that he chose the '1901' starting date to make it easier to keep track of the number of seasons which have elapsed. It's a lot easier to say that 1909 is the 9th year of a game than to try to figure that out if we used, say, a 1913 starting date."

"There are a few errors on the map. For one, Belgium is shown as owning the Pas de Calais area. I've corrected this on my board, and on some of the variant maps I've produced, to include that area in France. For another Montenegro has been merged with Albania. For the importance of game-balance, it was necessary to separate the provinces of Greece and Constantinople; hence, Bulgaria was given a south coast several years earlier than in reality. There's also a typographical error. the "Gulf of Lyons" has nothing to do with the French city of Lyons. This should be the Gulf of Lions ('Golfe de Lion'). I've spoken with both Calhamer and Avalon Hill people about this error. They all acknowledge it, but feel that it's impossible to change it after all these years. I do show the proper name in all of my variant maps."

"The map of Burgundy and Munich is a fair rendition of the actual border between 1871 and 1918, as both Rhur and Munich do spill across the Rhine. If you compare the Diplomacy map with a modern map, you'll see that the Alsace-Lorraine area actually points a 'dagger' into Germany. While several of the internal provincial boundaries on the map bear little resemblance to the names for those spaces, this one isn't so bad."

"To cite a really bad boundary error, note that the Liverpool space goes far too north, absorbing the actual Clydeside locations. On my maps, I extend Clyde down to include the shipbuilding area. And, of course, Wales touching Yorkshire is a bit ludicrous. But many of these boundary lines are drawn to increase the playability of the game, with no attempt to match reality."

SA: Ah, but the UK map is different from the US map! The UK map clearly shows France with Alsace-Lorraine and Clyde has been extended south to cover Clydeside. I wonder why the two maps are different?

I would have thought it made more sense to call 'Wales', 'Birmingham', and call 'Clyde', 'Glasgow', but then again Calhamer obviously didn't want to use the names of cities for non-space.

BAL TO SUN, 11/3/92

DIPLOMACY, extra page

Mass Society and the Extinction of Native Peoples

London.
Now that the orgy of breast-beating is over, perhaps we could try to see Christopher Columbus and the European conquest of the Americas in a slightly broader context. After 500 years, we ought to have enough perspective to move beyond childishly triumphant declarations that Columbus didn't really find the Americas because they weren't really lost.

The European conquest of the Americas, together with the comparable events that overwhelmed the neolithic societies of southern Africa and Oceania about the same time, was the last stage in a drama that had already been played out almost everywhere else in the world.

What happened to the Ainu of Japan, the hill tribes of what is now southern China and Indochina, the tribal peoples of India, and the San (Bushmen) of southern Africa was just the same. You can moralize about it to your heart's content, but the fact is that not one significant area remains on the earth's surface that has not been taken over by one mass society or another.

If 16th-century Chinese or Japanese had discovered the Americas, the results for the native peoples would have been just the same. And if nobody had developed ocean-going vessels, most of the little tribal peoples would have been overrun anyway, by the nascent mass soci-

eties that were already coming into existence in their own midst.

Most of the estimated 40 million people who inhabited the Americas in 1492 still led the relatively simple lives of hunter-gatherers. A smaller number lived in agricultural villages, like some of the eastern woodlands Indians of North America. But in Central America and in the Andean spine of South America real mass societies were emerging that were every bit as nasty as those of the Old World.

Because we know that the Aztec and Inca societies crumbled virtually at a touch when the conquistadors arrived, we forget how closely they resembled the brutally authoritarian and militarized Bronze Age mass societies of the Old World. But the parallels between the Incas and the Akkadian empire of Mesopotamia, or between Aztec kings and Chin emperors, are very striking.

If Sargon of Akkad and Shih Huang-ti of China had ever been confronted by alien invaders with ocean-going ships and gunpowder, their empires would probably have curled up and died with equally little show of resistance. But Akkad and Chin were virtually alone in their respective corners of the Old World, for it was still early days.

So the Bronze Age empires of the

By GWYNNE DYER

Old World flourished, and were ultimately superseded by even bigger and tougher mass societies several thousand years ago. Whereas a comparable level of mass society was only being reached in the Americas 500 years ago. So Aztecs and Incas had no chance against Spaniards who had another several millennia of militarized mass civilization under their belts.

Given another thousand years or so, the developing mass societies of the Americas would have put paid to all the local tribal cultures without any outside help whatever. Just as had occurred in Europe and Asia several millennia before. The native tribal cultures of the Americas are to be mourned, and their survivors recompensed and helped as much as possible, but they were always doomed to lose.

The larger question is why mass societies emerged in the Americas only several millennia after their counterparts in the Old World. One can only speculate that the branch of humankind that originally colonized the Americas arrived relatively late, and had 10,000 years of easy living as they spread across unpopulated territories.

Back in the Old World, which had filled up with hunter-gatherer groups 20,000 or more years before,

the pressures to come up with new ways of living that could support a higher density of population would have mounted earlier. So it was the Europeans, proud new possessors of mass civilization, who overran the Americas, and not the other way around.

But this brings up the biggest question of all. Despite these little differences of chronology that made so much difference to the original inhabitants of the Americas, the invention of mass civilization was nearly almost simultaneous all over the world.

For tens of thousands of years, human beings lived in tribal groups, dabbling here and there in agriculture and animal husbandry. Then, within a span of less than 3,000 years, they started building mass societies all over the globe.

Theories of "cultural diffusion" may explain why the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus valley and China all arose within the same 1,500-year span, but there was no contact then between the Old and New Worlds. Yet within another thousand years New World peoples were doing the same thing.

It does make you wonder whether there is a bit more programming in "human nature" than meets the eye.

Gwynne Dyer is a syndicated columnist.

Recent events in the SIG caused me to consult the Executive Committee and a few of the Mensa publishers concerning the future of the Postal Diplomacy SIG. For the past two years, there has been a slow decline in our membership figures, from two causes. First, the percentage of old members who renew their memberships has dropped. Second, the number of new members joining the SIG has declined. Some of our old members have entered the hobby's mainstream and left us. That kind of a loss is no problem. We're glad to see M's getting involved in various aspects of Diplomacy outside of the SIG. That's one of the reasons the SIG was founded. However, some people have simply left us without so much as a goodbye.

We've also had two Mensa zines, THE ASSASSIN'S BLADE and THE SPINDLE, fold in the current year. A third, THE CONTINUAL CRISIS, will fold upon the completion of its game, Mensa #36 (1991 IG). Fortunately, other publishers, Ralph Baty and Craig Reges, picked up the slack and are now running these "orphans."

So, the question arises, what can we do to encourage current members to renew, and to pick up new members? I've found that the game, Diplomacy, is known, at least by name, to many Mensans. There's a very long listing of names under "K53, Diplomacy," in the Mensa Register. But, it seems that the concept of playing the game by mail, or even e-mail, is not too exciting among M's under, say, 29. The average age of players, both within the SIG and in the hobby as a whole, keeps on going up.

In 1989, I sent out a letter to nearly everyone listed under "K53," and picked up about 11 new members in two months. I will do this again when the next Register is printed in 1993. Meanwhile, what can we do?

To begin with, I no longer cut off subs to DIPLOMAG to M's active in Postal games when they expire. I send at least one more copy, with a stamped message, "Dues Not Paid" on the cover and inside. This sometimes results in a renewal, especially if a person merely overlooked the previous "Dues are Due" notice.

It has been suggested that we might take the following steps:

1. Open SIG membership for Postal games other than Diplomacy. As many of you know, games like Civilization, Kremlin, United (soccer) and several "choo choo" games, such as Railway Rivals, Rail Baron and "1830" are now being offered somewhere within the hobby. Facts in Five and other word games are also to be found.
2. Taking a paid ad for our SIG within the pages of the MENSA BULLETIN, or perhaps Avalon Hill's THE GENERAL. We get a free plug in the BULLETIN every 6 months, in the complete SIG Listing, but maybe a larger ad would attract more attention.
3. Get a mention of the Diplomacy SIG in the next reprinting of the flyer which goes into the A-H game box. We already have a good listing in the ZINE REGISTER.

I'm including a Referendum form for you to complete, to let me have your opinions on these matters. Please take all the space you need if you wish to make other suggestions on recruiting or member retention.

REFERENDUM ON FUTURE SIG ACTIVITIES:

Please return to: Fred C. Davis, 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, MD. 21043

1. Yes No. Open SIG membership for non-Diplomacy postal games.
2. Yes No. Try paid advertising in MENSA BULLETIN or THE GENERAL.
3. Yes No. Try for listing in flyer in the A-H game box.
4. Yes No. Would you be interested in GM'ing a future Mensa Diplomacy game, either by flyer, subzine, or a zine of your own?
5. Use this space for any suggestions you have for recruiting or retaining SIG members: (continue on separate sheet if you wish).

MENSA #39, 1992 U. GM: Stephen Glasgow, WAR FAIR

After Spring 1902, Russia (Mike Morris) still leads the field with 6 Centers, with F Rumania dislodging the Turkish F from Black Sea. His A Warsaw had a standoff with German A Munich in Silesia (Dennis Klein). France (Jim Lewis) convoyed his A Port home to Gascony to meet a potential invasion threat, but was able to prevent the English A Belgium from taking Picardy with his A Paris-Pic (S) by F Brest. Austria (Julian Beasley) tried to take Bulgaria from Turkey, but was repulsed, to stay at 5. Germany & France also have 5, while England, Italy & Turkey have 4 each.

MENSA #40, Starting Up. GM: Eric Young, THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN

This game was filled on Sept. 26th, but I'm still waiting for the country assignments. The players' names are: Julien Beasley, Stephen Gaddy, Stephen Glasgow, Jim Grose, Jim Lewis, Carl Nail and Jon Rosenthal. Two Jims, two Stephens, two Californians, two people with the same initials. Confusing, wot?

We have four people signed up for the Mensa #41 game, which will be run in Ralph Baty's BATYVILLE GAZETTE. All we need are three more diplomats to get this game started. Then, I believe Mensa #42 will run in Andy York's RAMBLING WAY, but if anyone else would like to volunteer to run a game, please let me know.

* * * *

WE HAD A NICE VACATION in Chicago, my home town. Had forgotten how heavy the traffic could be there. Makes Baltimore traffic look like Pumpkin Corners. We visited old friends and revisited some of the city's famous museums, as well as some of the restaurants we used to go to when we were courting. Discovered a new restaurant near S. Elgin called "The Hideout." Supposedly, this was where Al Capone hid out when the cops were looking for him. Decor features a bathtub, for making gin, and a Tommy gun and violin case hang over the bar. Had the best roast beef we've had in years there. The weather was unusually mild for late October for the Windy City. Made only one Diplomacy related phone call, and only reached an answering machine. We're looking forward to another visit before too much longer.

A HAPPY THANKSGIVING and MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of you! See you in January.

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